



Steve Monilaws – President
Ann Faught - Manager
Phone: 701 896-3404
Fax: 701 896-3400
2894 146th Ave SE
Absaraka, ND 58002

July 25, 2013



Darrell Nitschke
Executive Secretary
Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard Avenue – Dept 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Dear Mr. Nitschke

Enclosed is the Annual Report for Essential Telecommunications Carrier Certification for the Absaraka Cooperative Telephone Co., Inc., Study Area Code 381601 for program Year 2013.

Questions related to this report may be addressed to me at 701-896-3404 or by email at ffarm@wtc-mail.net.

Sincerely,

Ann Faught
General Manager

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
ESSENTIAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER CERTIFICATION
FOR THE ABSARAKA COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE CO., INC.**

The undersigned, on behalf of the telecommunications company named below (the Company), does hereby state and certify, as follows:

1. The Company will provide service on a timely basis to requesting customers within the Company's designated service area where the Company's network already passes the potential customer's premises, and
2. The Company will provide service, within a reasonable period of time, if the potential customer is within the Company's designated service area but outside the Company's existing network coverage, and if service can be provided at a reasonable cost.
3. The Company is able to remain functional in emergency situations and has a reasonable amount of back-up power to ensure functionality without an external power source, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations.
4. The Company is satisfying and will satisfy applicable consumer protection and service quality standards.
5. The Company acknowledges that the North Dakota Public Service Commission (the Commission) may require it to provide equal access to long distance carriers in the event that no other eligible telecommunications carrier is providing equal access within the proposed designated service area.
6. The Company has met and will meet the requirements of eligible telecommunications carrier advertising.

Exhibit A Information

The following information is provided in Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference:

1. A description of the amount of high-cost universal service support received by the Company in the prior calendar year and a description of how that support was used for the provision, maintenance, or upgrading of the Company's facilities and services. (An explanation of any changes from reports previously provided to the Commission is also included).
2. An estimate of the amount of federal high-cost universal service support the Company anticipates receiving in the following calendar year (the calendar year following this report) and a description of how that support is projected to be used for the provision, maintenance, or upgrading of the Company's facilities and services pursuant to Section 254 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.
3. Exhibit A also contains, for the prior calendar year and the subsequent calendar year (the calendar year following this report), identification of specific construction or upgrade projects; a description of how service will be improved by each project; the start date and completion date for each improvement; the amount of investment for cash improvement; the specific geographic area where each improvement was made or will be made; and the estimated population that will be served by each improvement. (For an incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC), this information is submitted at the study area level.

4. Detailed information of any outage, as that term is defined in 47 C.F.R. § 4.5, of at least thirty (30) minutes in duration for each designated service area for any facilities the Company owns, operates, leases, or otherwise utilizes that potentially affect:
 - a. At least ten percent (10%) of the end users served in a designated service area, or
 - b. A 911 special facility, as defined in 47 C.F.R. § 4.5(e).

This report includes:

- a. The date and time of the onset of the outage.
 - b. A brief description of the outage and its resolution.
 - c. The particular services affected.
 - d. The geographic areas affected by the outage.
 - e. Steps taken to prevent a similar outage in the future.
 - f. The number of customers affected.
5. The number of requests for service from potential customers within the designated service area that were unfilled during the past year. A detail of how the Company attempted to provide service to those potential customers is also included.
6. The number of complaints per thousand handsets or lines.

I hereby certify that the above information is true and correct and is submitted on behalf of the Company named below. The information is submitted in the year 2013.

Absaraka Cooperative Telephone Co., Inc.

Ann Faught 7-25-13
Ann Faught, General Manager

EXHIBIT A

1. The amount of high-cost universal support the Company received in the prior calendar year.

Year 2012 Federal Universal Service Receipts:

High Cost Loop Support (HCLS)	\$ 11,220
Interstate Common Line Support (ICLS)	\$ 20,682
Local Switching Support (LSS)	\$ 4,254
Connect America Fund (ICC)	\$ 31,152
Safety Net Additive Support	\$ 0
Safety Valve Loop Cost Adjustment	\$ 0
TOTAL	\$ 67,308

2. An estimate of the amount of high-cost universal support the Company anticipates receiving in the next calendar year (the calendar year following the date of this report).

Estimated Year 2014 Federal Universal Service Receipts:

High Cost Loop Support (HCLS)	\$ 10,624
Interstate Common Line Support (ICLS)	\$ 18,922
Local Switching Recovery (LSS)	\$ 0
Connect America Fund (ICC)	\$ 24,968
Safety Net Additive Support	\$ 0
Safety Valve Loop Cost Adjustment	\$ 0
TOTAL	\$ 54,514

The changes, if any, from reports previously filed with the Commission are, as follows:
(For 2013, there are none).

3. **Prior Year's Support and Following Year's Support (the calendar year following the date of this report).** The ways this support from the prior calendar year was used, and the ways the Company anticipates it will use the following calendar year's support for the provision, maintenance, or upgrading of the company's facilities and services, are as follows:

	<u>2012 Actual</u>	<u>2014 Estimated</u>
Plant Specific Operations Expenses		
General support (Accts 6120-24)	\$ 2,833.87	\$ 2,000
Central office (Accts 6210-6232)	\$ 19,669.10	\$ 18,000
Cable and wire facilities (Accts 6410-41)	\$ 16,558.11	\$ 19,000
Network operations (Accts 6530-40)	\$ 2,571.50	\$ 3,500
Depreciation and amortization (Accts 6560-65)	\$ 25,882.64	\$ 25,000
Customer Operations Expenses		
Customer services (Accts 6620-28)	\$ 12,908.94	\$ 14,000
Corporate Operations Expenses		
Executive and planning (Accts 6710-12)	\$ 3,502.57	\$ 3,500
General and administrative (Accts 6720-28)	\$ 22,324.41	\$ 22,000
Broadband Expenses		
Repair & Installation (Acct 7820)	\$ 659.74	\$ 700
Internet Expenses (Acct 7820)	\$ 6,650.90	\$ 6,800
Total Years Supported Expenses, Before Return on Investment	\$113,561.78	\$114,500
Additions		
Central Office Switching (Acct 2210)	\$ 6,209.40	\$ 3,000
Central Office Circuit (Acct 2232)	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,000
Cable and wire (Acct 2410)	\$ 0.00	\$ 10,000
Total	\$ 6,209.40	\$ 16,000
Total Supported Expenditures, Before Return on Investment	\$119,771.18	\$130,500

2012 Specific construction or upgrade projects are listed, as follows:

Construction or Upgrade Project Name	Start Date	Completion Date	Amount of Investment	Geographic Area of Improvement	Estimated Population Served	Description of How Service Will Be Improved
CO Power Supply	6/5/2012	6/5/2012	\$1,009.05	381601	83	More reliable power supply
8 Batteries	10/11/2012	10/11/2012	\$5,200.35	381601	83	Split bank more reliable backup in emergencies
Total			\$6,209.40			

2014 Specific construction or upgrade projects are listed, as follows:

Construction or Upgrade Project Name	Start Date	Completion Date	Amount of Investment	Geographic Area of Improvement	Estimated Population Served	Description of How Service Will Be Improved
Line Cards	1/1/2014	12/31/2014	\$3,000.00	Study Area 1601	83	Improved Service Offerings
Miscellaneous Cable	1/1/2014	12/31/2014	\$10,000.00	Study Area 1601	83	Increased & Improved Service Offerings
Broadband Upgrade	1/1/2014	12/31/2014	\$3,000.00	Study Area 1601	83	Change route to increase speed
Total			\$16,000.00			

4. **Outages.** Detailed information of any outages, as that term is defined in 47 C.F.R. § 4.5(e), of at least thirty (30) minutes in duration of each designated service area for the facility which the Company owns that potentially affect:

- At least ten percent (10%) of the end users served in a designated service area, or
- A 911 special facility, as defined in 47 C.F.R. § 4.5(e).

Brief Description of Outage and Resolution of Outage	Date and Time of Onset	Particular Services Affected	Geographic Area Affected By Outage	Number of Customers Affected	Steps Taken to Prevent Similar Outages in the Future
Battery failure caused Phone and Internet Outage	10/3/2012 2 hr phone outage 4 hr internet outage	All services	1601	100%	New & more batteries purchased that will improve our power source and increase our run time on backup power.

(If any FCC outage reports were filed showing this information, they may be attached instead.)

5. The number of requests for service from potential customers within the designated service area that were unfilled in the past year was **none**.

6. The number of complaints per one thousand handsets or lines was **less than one**.